

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 13, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FOSTER made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 275.]

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Frederick Vincent, administrator of James Le Caze, surviving partner of Le Caze & Mallet, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to adopt a report made by Mr. Shields at the last session, as expressing the views of the committee:

“It appears that the sum of \$4,890 82 was due to Le Caze & Mallet on the 1st of July, 1784, for advances made and supplies furnished to the United States during the revolutionary war, under an adjustment by the Superintendent of Finance. This balance was duly stated upon the books of the confederation under that date, and was reported to Congress with a view to providing for its payment.

“In view of the inability of the government to liquidate these demands, Congress, on the 3d of June, 1784, enacted ‘that an interest of six per cent. per annum shall be allowed to all creditors of the United States for supplies furnished or services done from the time that payment became due.’ In 1790, the government still being unable to pay these claims, Congress, by act of August 4, 1790, authorized the funding of these debts by a subscription to a loan, as therein provided. By the act of May 30, 1794, these debts being yet unsettled, Congress extended the provisions of the act of 1790, declared that interest shall be allowed upon all registered claims, whether subscribed or not; and these provisions were continued by subsequent enactments, from time to time, to December 31, 1797.

“This debt was registered upon [transferred to] the books of the treasury of the present government in 1794.

“In consequence of the death of Le Caze & Mallet, as will be seen by reports heretofore made in this case by the committee, it appears that no demand for payment of this claim was made from 1797 to December 31, 1844; and the committee are unwilling to allow interest during that period, it being assumed that the government was always, after 1797, ready to pay its just debts when called upon. They have, therefore, directed a settlement to be made under the positive provisions of the act of 1790, above referred to, with an allowance of interest

from December, 1844, when the administrator made demand for payment, as exhibited by the records of this case.

"On January 31, 1855, Congress passed an act providing for the payment of the original debt, but omitting the interest; and the committee, considering the claim as justly entitled to interest under the several acts before cited, as well as from the date of demand in 1844, report a bill accordingly."